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Notice of Allowability	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	09/872,438	COLDREN ET AL.
	Examiner	Art-Unit
	Dung (Michael) T Nguyen	2828

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTO-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. This communication is responsive to 03/31/04.
2. The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-13 and 27-41.
3. The drawings filed on 01 June 2001 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All
 - b) Some*
 - c) None
 of the:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
6. CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) hereto or 2) to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
7. DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____.
4. Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____.
7. Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. Other _____.


 Don Wong
 Supervisory Patent Examiner
 Technology Center 2800

DETAILED ACTION

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with George Gates on 07/07/04.

The application has been amended as follows:

- Claim 1, line 9: insert -- wherein the quantum well bandgap is lower than elsewhere in the gain section -- after light beam.
- Claim 27, line 10: insert -- wherein the quantum well bandgap is lower than elsewhere in the gain section -- after light beam.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1-13 and 27-41 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The examiner has reviewed the prior art in light of applicant's claimed invention and finds that the claims define over the prior art. The prior art does not disclose or

suggest inter alia the limitations of a tunable laser comprising: a waveguide for guiding a light beam, the waveguide including a separate-confinement-heterostructure (SCH) having an energy bandgap that is sufficiently low to provide gain to the light beam; a front mirror defining an end of a cavity within the waveguide; a back mirror defining an opposite end of the cavity within the waveguide; the cavity within the waveguide including: a gain section within the cavity for providing spontaneous emission of the light beam and for providing gain for the light beam wherein the quantum well bandgap is lower than elsewhere in the gain section; and a phase section within the cavity for tuning the light beam around a center frequency of a bandwidth; wherein reflectivities of the front mirror, and the back mirror and the center frequency of the phase section are tuned to be substantially coincident such that the light beam exists the cavity and wherein additional gain for the light beam is provided by at least one of the phase section, the front mirror and the back mirror in order to partially compensate for losses associated with tuning,

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled “Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance.”

Communication Information

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Dung (Michael) T Nguyen whose telephone number is (571) 272-1949. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30 - 17:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Don Wong can be reached on (571) 272-1834. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 306-5511 for regular communications and (703) 306-5511 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 306-3329.

Nguyen (Michael) Dung


Don Wong
Supervisory Patent Examiner
Technology Center 2800